

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 15-19 are now present in this application. Claim 15 is independent.

Amendments have been made to the Abstract and claims 15 and 17. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statements filed August 12, 2005 and February 22, 2006, and for providing Applicants with initialed copies of the PTO-SB08 forms filed therewith.

Although, the Examiner has not provided Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-SB08 form filed with the Information Disclosure Statement filed May 11, 2007, but did make of record the reference cited therein in the Examiner's Notice of References Cited.

Drawings

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the drawings are accepted.

Election of Species Requirement

The Examiner has made the Election of Species Requirement final, and has withdrawn claims 12-14, 18, 19, 23, and 24 from further consideration. Applicants have canceled claims 12-14, 23 and 24. However, Applicants have not canceled non-elected claims 18 and 19 since each of these claims depends, either directly or indirectly, from independent generic claim 15, which is believed to be allowable. Upon allowance of independent claim 15, Applicants respectfully request examination and allowance of withdrawn claims 18 and 19.

Objection to the Abstract of the Disclosure

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure because it uses phrases which can be implied.

In order to overcome this objection, Applicants have amended the Abstract of the Disclosure to remove the phrases which can be implied. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 1-11, 15-17, 20-22 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has set forth certain instances wherein the claim language is not clearly understood.

In order to overcome this rejection, Applicants have amended claims 15 and 17 to correct each of the deficiencies specifically pointed out by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Further, Applicants have canceled claims 1-11, 20-22 and 25 thereby rendering the rejection with respect to these claims moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 20-22 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by CN 1317081. Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 20-22 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by s EP 1 114 970. Claims 1-11, 20-22 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Giles, Jr. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-11, 20-22 and

25 have been cancelled, thus rendering the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 15-17 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application. Claims 15 and 17 have been amended as set forth above in order to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 15-17, along with dependent claims 18 and 19, are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone James T. Eller, Jr., Registration No. 39,538, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

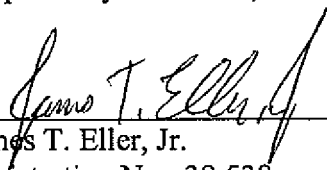
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 11, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By


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